

Applicants: George J. Christ et al.
Serial No: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: Herewith
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REMARKS

Claims 1-44 were pending in the subject application. By this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 2-3, 13-14, 16-18, 37 and 39-41 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 4, 7, 8, 12, 15, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 30, 33, 34, 38 and 42 have been amended. Accordingly, upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1, 4-12, 15, 19-36, 38, and 42-44 will be pending and under examination.

Claims 4, 7, 8, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 30, 33, and 34 have been amended to eliminate multiple claim dependencies. The remaining claim amendments are supported by at least the previous version of the claims.

The specification has herein above been amended to recite the priority data for the subject application.

Applicants maintain that the amendments to the specification and to the claims do not raise an issue of new matter. Accordingly, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the five references that are listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08A (1 page). Three of the references were cited in the PCT International Search Report issued in connection with International Application PCT/US2004/039308. A copy of the International Search Report and Written Opinion is submitted with the subject application.

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CONCLUSION

A check for \$625.00 is enclosed herewith to cover the fees for a small entity for 1) the basic national fee ($\$300.00 \div 2 = \150.00), 2) examination fee ($\$200.00 \div 2 = \100.00), 3) search fee ($\$100.00 \div 2 = \50.00), and 4) 13 claims in excess of twenty claims ($\$50.00 \times 13 = \$650.00 \div 2 = \$325.00$). No other fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this application, Preliminary Amendment and Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any other fee is required to preserve the pendency of the subject application, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 01-1785. Overpayments may also be credited to Deposit Account No. 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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New York, New York